

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 12th June 2025

Present: Cllr Adam Rogers (Chair), Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllr James Woodward, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Wendy Donovan, Cllr Zoe Goss, Cllr Karen Morgan, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Adrian Harford,

Attending: Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative

Apologies: Cllr Eryl O'Neill (Vice Chair), Cllr Rhys Howells, Cllr Non Thomas,

2025/126 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2025/127 - PCSO report

There was no report from the PCSO. The Executive Officer advised that the PCSO for Penderyn has now been moved out of our area. Cllr Adam Rogers advised of a possible closure of Hirwaun Police Station and that the County Borough Cllrs would be meeting with the police shortly.

2025/128 – Defibrillators

Cllr Wendy Donovan advised that a resident had spoken with the quarry to request that they fund the defibrillator for Woodland Park. Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the grant request is still progressing but they hope that the grant will be made.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised of the need for a freestanding pole as there are no suitable houses willing to give permission to install, and due to this, we will need a certificate of unmetered supply. He advised that he is currently looking into the costs of a defibrillator plus pole, along with the certificate of unmetered supply. He advised that we would also need the cost of connecting the installation to the power supply, along with confirmation of who will act as guardian and be responsible for the pads etc.

Cllr Harford provided an update on the guardianship of the defibrillator at Hirwaun YMCA, along with an update on the installation of the defibrillators at Fairview and Station Road. **Action 1** - Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/129– County Borough Cllr reports

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

On 3rd June, 11 arrests were made on Hirwaun Industrial Estate in connection to a cannabis cultivation operation.

Heads of the Valleys

On Friday 30th May, Section 5 and 6 of the A465 between Dowlais Top and Hirwaun was officially handed over to Future Valleys Project Co. This is the company that will manage the road for the next 30 years. For any matters relating to the road you can contact their service provider through Traffic Wales at- 0300 123 1213 or contact@traffic.wales

Highways

- We had an important meeting to discuss with the Highways Department the next step in the review of the 20mph. We believe that this process should include the views of local residents, as it should have done before the 20mph came into force! We have given our support for consultations to be undertaken, which would go towards deciding if these roads will revert back to 30mph:
 - o On the stretch from Merthyr Road leading to Croesbychan.

- From the bottom of Penderyn village to the top of Penderyn village (excluding outside the school).
- RCT Council have decided to revert the speed of Hirwaun Industrial Estate back to 30mph, following requests by those who work on and drive through the estate. We stressed to Highways that whatever the speed of our roads, enforcement should also be taking place. The speed on our mountain roads are still dangerous too.
- Shared the temporary road closure at Hepste Bridge Road, Penderyn. Early June.
- Reported potholes- Pontpren, Penderyn Railway Terrace, Hirwaun
- Reported damaged paving slabs on Cynon Terrace pavement

Public buses

We have seen that timetables have been taken off stops in Hirwaun. We have asked what the new timetables in the Ward look like and when they will be placed on stops.

Streetcare

- Asked if RCT waste collectors could not leave food waste bin lids open after collection. Uncollected waste is left exposed, not making the pavements look good.
- Reported dumped waste and other items on Cwm Cadlan Road
- Requested several times for the large amount of waste to be collected from the Heol Uchel flats- Waste was removed. Wheelie bins that were seen as adding to the issue were too.
- New dog fouling bins requested- Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Industrial Estate Croesbychan
- We have reported the wooden fencing around the communal area on the Gower Estate which is falling apart. We have reported in the past and the missing panels were replaced, unfortunately, more have been damaged or removed. Nails are sticking out of some making it more dangerous. We have asked if consideration can be made to replace the wooden panels with metal fencing.
- Expressed concerns with a wall that is on the High Street in Hirwaun- It was not deemed as being dangerous following inspection.

Trees/Overgrowth

- We would like to thank RCT for cutting back overgrowth at the following locations:

Outside the Hirwaun Medical Centre Footpath between John's Lane and Swansea Road

We have reported other areas, including several other footpaths.

- Reported a dangerous tree along the A4059
- Requested further grass cutting along A4059

Bannau Brycheiniog NPA

We are pleased with the work that has been carried out to address the subsidence on the Mineral Line/Arcway. We both often walk this stretch, and we are glad that it has been made safe for all. We would like to thank the wardens for their correspondence with us on this issue.

Trivallis

We reported the untidy skips that are on the Gower Estate. These are being used by workers around the estate, but we have had reports that others are using the skips to dump waste from off the estate.

Footpaths

We have had a couple meetings about the HIR/4 and HIR/5 footpaths at Croesbychan. We shared concerns with the lack of maintenance and damages to residential fencing- Waymaker signs will be replaced showing the correct route and barbed wire will be taken off fencing along path.

National Grid

Shared concerns about large branches possibly affecting the power lines at Croesbychan.

Dwr Cymru

We have requested a meeting with Dwr Cymru representatives to discuss the recent increase in water-related issues.

RCT Council

- Councillor Karen Morgan has been re-elected as the Leader of the Opposition, from the second largest political group in RCT, Plaid Cymru.

Announcements

- The new local magazine, Village Matters, has now been printed! We have had a great response so far. If you would like a copy, please contact villagematters2025@outlook.com or 07940174216. The June copy is free,

from July it will be £1 per copy. We would appreciate any article contributions, business advertising and volunteers to help distribute.

- Congratulations to Adam Owain Rogers and Eryl O'Neill who have been elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council by fellow community councillors.
- It was great to see the Welfare grounds being used to its fullest for the Green Wall Festival. Well done for the work you did Hirwaun FC, especially the teams representing the village! A special mention should be given to those who played for the Kaylan Hipsley Memorial Cup, a tribute to a beloved young resident.
- The Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom competition will take place in July. Submit entries by July 21st to office@hirwaunandpenderyncc.org.uk.
- Thoughts are with the family of Vi Lloyd (aka Sheila Dawn). Vi was known to the countless number of people whose lives she touched whether through her wonderful singing voice, her acting work or teaching and youth work. Thank you for the memories, you were our "star".

Cllrs reported the following matters to the County Borough Cllrs:

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the repairs to the Cwm Cadlan road have still not been carried out. Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he would chase them.

Cllr Wendy Donovan reported issue with water pressure in Woodland Park. She asked if RCT would be consulting on the change in speed limit in Penderyn. She reported overgrown trees on the path behind Woodland Park, and said that the trees on the A4059 still need cutting back.

Cllr Margaret Amos reported potholes at Llwyn Onn close to the Community Centre, and overhanging trees at Bryn Onnen.

Cllr Zoe Goss reported fly tipping at Cwm Cadlan along with parking issues at the new zebra crossing in Hirwaun. Cllr Adam Rogers responded that surveillance cameras could be requested for Cwm Cadlan. In relation to parking in Hirwaun, he advised that he had requested more enforcement, along with railings on High Street and at the Co-op and that RCT CBC had responded that there was no additional money to purchase the railings or to maintain them moving forward.

2025/130 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 8th May 2025 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Margaret Amos, seconded by Cllr Colin Woodley and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2025/131 – Recognition of Achievements

It was advised that Cllr Non Thomas was to contact the children's parents and provide the information for the Community Council's Facebook page. **Action 2** – Cllr Non Thomas to update at the next meeting.

2025/132 - Village Green Project

The Working Group provided an update in relation to the plans for the Village Green along with the grant available. Cllr Adrian Harford referred to a WhatsApp Group in

relation to the Hirwaun Village Green grant application. The Executive Officer reminded Cllrs that the Social Media Policy dictates that the Executive Officer should be a member/admin of all Community Council WhatsApp groups. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to be added to the WhatsApp Group if one is set up.

Cllr James Woodward raised concerns in relation to the cost of the project and that Action For Hirwaun would need their own insurance policy if they do not already have one. The Executive Officer asked who would be responsible for any items purchased as there would be an insurance liability. **Action 4** – Working Group to continue with the grant application process before forwarding it on to the Executive Officer to submit.

2025/133 – Local Places for Nature

Bethel Place – The Executive Officer advised that with have still not been able to make contact with Trivallis. **Action 5** – Cllr Adrian Harford to go to their offices in person.

2025/134 – Lease for Old Fire Station

It was advised that this is ongoing. **Action 6** – Executive Officer plus Cllrs Colin Woodley and Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/135 – Wooden Boxes

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the boxes were ready to install. **Action 7** – Cllr Colin Woodley to chase the Men's Sheds.

2025/136 – Welsh Government Community Cohesion Meeting

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had not heard from them to arrange the meeting. It was agreed that this would not be taken any further.

2025/137 – Road Safety Working Group

Cllr Wendy Donovan advised that she the Road Safety Officer at RCT was going to liaise with the Quarry to discuss education sessions.

2025/138 – Sealed Passwords

The Executive Officer advised that the passwords had been returned by Cllr Colin Woodley and had been re-issued to Cllr Adam Rogers.

2025/139 – Grass Verge Adjacent to Hirwaun Clock

It was advised that the Rugby Club had raised safety concerns in relation to a ditch on the verge adjacent to the Rugby Club. It was noted that there were no plans to remove the hedge which covers the ditch. The purchase of poppy seeds was discussed for the two verges in this area, and that this project would be handed over to the Grass Verge Working Group to continue with. **Action 8** – i) Grass Verge Working Group to inspect the area, ii) Executive Officer to order poppy seeds, iii) Working Group to go ahead with the verge on the other side.

2025/140 – Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom

The Executive Officer advised that this is being advertised.

2025/141 – Garden Show

It was advised that the transfer of the Garden Show to the Crafty Growers had been announced via the Facebook page.

2025/142 – Town & Community Council Charter

It was advised that the Community Council's examples and suggestions had been forwarded to RCT CBC.

2025/143 – Daffodil Bulbs

It was advised that these had been collected and distributed.

2025/144 – Spring Clean Risk Assessment

The Executive Officer advised that the risk assessment for the Spring Clean litter pick had still not been received from the Working Group. The Executive Officer advised of the insurance implications for not carrying out a risk assessment and advised that they must be carried out for all council events, including litter picks.

2025/145- Planning Applications

None received.

2025/146- Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he has chased the grant for the Woodland Park defibrillator with Penderyn Quarry. He advised that he had checked the drainage holes in the Penderyn Welcome planters and one of them needed repositioning. Cllr Woodley asked for help in doing this.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had been planting at the wooden planters with the children from Penderyn Primary School.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he has:

- Updated the logo on the bee signage for grass verges,
- Grown on the Silver Leaf plants from the planters and transferred them up to Penderyn,
- Carried out a litter pick for Hirwaun and Penderyn,
- Cut the trees back at Hirwaun Public Toilets,
- Attended the Village Green meeting,
- Planted up some of the Welcome planters for Hirwaun,
- Reported the following: i) cracked pavement at Maescynon and the need for the dock leaves on the verge to be cut back, ii) overflowing bin and dog waste bin being left open at Maescynon, iii) glass on the road at Tudor Avenue.

Cllr Adrian Harford reported that he had attended the Grass Verge Working Group meeting, that he had collected daffodil bulbs to be planted on the Brecon Road bridge, and that he hoped to arrange more litter picks moving forward.

Cllr Wendy Donovan reported that she has been dealing with the defibrillator for Woodland Park, liaised with RCT in relation to Road Safety and planted the Welcome planters in Penderyn.

Cllr Zoe Goss asked if the hall finances were covered by the Community Council. The Executive Officer reminded Cllrs that the Village Hall has been a separate financial entity to the Community Council since 2016. Cllr Goss then asked if the Village Hall carpark could be used by members of the public. The Executive Officer advised that this request would need to be discussed by the Hall Trustees at the next hall meeting, but that if the carpark was being used by members of the public, it wouldn't then be available for use by those booking the hall.

Cllr Goss concluded by providing feedback from the Llais session that she attended in relation to health services locally.

Cllr Adam Rogers reported that he attended the Merthyr Rising event at St Elvan's and suggested that the Community Council get involved next year.

2025/147 – Community Youth Representative Report:

The Executive Officer advised that Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Rep had carried out a litter pick in the village, collecting 8 bags of litter and had attended the Rainbows event at Hirwaun Library.

2025/148 – Finance Committee Vacancy

It was proposed by Cllr Zoe Goss that Cllr Adam Rogers fill the vacancy for the finance committee. This was seconded by Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and agreed nem con.

2025/149 – Walking Festival

It was agreed that Cllrs Adam Rogers and Adrian Harford meet to organise the Walking Festival. **Action 9** – Cllrs Adam Rogers, Adrian Harford and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach to organise the walk.

2025/150 – Old Fire Station

The Executive Officer raised a verbal request from The Garden Society to remove a fence at The Old Fire Station. The upkeep of the building was discussed and permission was granted upon receipt of a written request. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to obtain the written request.

2025/151 – Attendance Allowance

The Executive Officer discussed the criteria for the Attendance Allowance and advised of the potential costs to the council which could add an additional £10-£15 thousand pounds per year onto the council budget. Cllr Colin Woodley proposed that the allowance is out of proportion for our Community Council and believes that it will also be rejected

next year due to the costs involved. This was seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con with no further action required.

Youth Rep Caitlyn Kochalski left the meeting at 7.48pm.

2025/152 – Butterfly Garden

Cllrs discussed the upkeep of the Butterfly Garden at Hirwaun Public Toilets. The costs of using a contractor to tidy up the area was discussed and it was agreed that Cllrs Adrian Harford and James Woodward would carry out the work required. Cllrs also agreed to plant the saplings donated by The Garden Society. **Action 11** – Cllrs Adrian Harford and James Woodward to continue with this.

Cllr Karen Morgan joined the meeting.

2025/153 – Chairing Skills Training

Cllrs Adam Rogers and Eryl O'Neill asked permission to attend the Chairing Skills training with One Voice Wales, and advised that they were prepared to cover the cost of the training themselves. Permission was granted to attend.

2025/154 – Annual Report

Cllrs approved the Annual Report. This was proposed by Cllr Margaret Amos, seconded by Cllr Colin Woodley and agreed nem con.

2025/155– Executive Officer's report

Daisy Communications - £101.00	Healthy Workstations - £180.00
Boverton Nurseries - £2,595.60	RBL Poppy Appeal - £50.00
St Lleurwg's Church - £15.00	

Consultations:

1. Welsh Government consultation on proposals to improve the administration and enforcement of council tax in Wales. **Action 12** – Cllrs to respond individually.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. VJ Day 80 – 15th August – Cllrs agreed to hold a VJ Day 80 ceremony. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to start organising the event and to add this onto the July agenda for further discussion.
2. Rhigos CC – Easter eggs – Cllrs discussed the email received from Rhigos Community Council. This led to a discussion in relation to the continuation of providing Easter Eggs to the primary schools. Cllr Colin Woodley proposed that we continue to provide the schools with Easter Eggs. This was seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley. Cllr Adam Rogers proposed that we stop providing Easter Eggs to the schools. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda for further discussion.
3. DeafAware eLearning Package.

4. One Voice Wales Area Committee Meetings – email from One Voice Wales. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to add this on to the July agenda for discussion.
5. One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference – The Executive Officer was given permission to attend this conference. This was proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley. Seconded by Cllr James Woodward and agreed nem con. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to report back to council.

Other:

1. One Voice Wales Legal Topic Notes:
 - Financial Management Revisited
 - Filling Vacancies by Co-option
 - Unjumbling the Jargon
 - E-Bulletin 3
2. Shared Prosperity Micro Fund for Summer Activities – The Executive Officer advised that she will be applying for this grant to cover the cost of the Council's summer activities. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to submit the grant application.

2025/156 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.37pm.